



Coconino County Sheriff's Office

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Date: September 5, 2006

Contacts: Gerry Blair 928-226-5089
Sgt. Aaron Dick 928-774-4523

Multiple Search and Rescue Incidents over Labor Day Weekend

The Coconino County Sheriff's Office and Coconino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit responded to five Search and Rescue calls for service on Saturday.

The first call involved a 15 year old male ATV rider from Glendale who got separated from his group and became disoriented at approximately 5:00pm on Saturday. The juvenile had a cell phone and called 911 for help. During the conversation with the Sheriff's Office his cell battery went dead and no further contact was received. The juvenile was not able to give much information about where his family's camp was or where he was. Shortly after his call a family member from the camp called and reported that the juvenile was missing. Search and Rescue personnel responded to conduct a search utilizing ATVs and vehicles. Arizona DPS Air Rescue was also requested to assist with an air search for the subject. At approximately 8:15am on Sunday while searchers were still in the field the juvenile drove back to the camp. He was uninjured and stated that he had made a wrong turn.

While the search for the 15 year old was getting started on Saturday the Sheriff's Office received another call for help from three hikers on Mt. Elden. The hikers, one adult female from Phoenix, one adult male from Phoenix, and one adult male from Flagstaff, reported that they were stranded on a rock face on Mt. Elden and were not able to continue uphill or downhill. The DPS Air Rescue unit was diverted from the search for the 15 year old to assist in locating the three stranded hikers. Search and Rescue personnel were inserted by helicopter and deployed on the Devil's Chair trail to assist with the evacuation. The operation was completed at approximately 9:30pm.

While the Newman Park and Mt. Elden incidents were in progress the Sheriff's Office received a report of two lost people at Woods Canyon Lake. The resident deputy in the Forest Lakes area responded and was able to locate those subjects before Search and Rescue volunteers were dispatched to the area.

Shortly after the hikers were found at Woods Canyon Lake the Sheriff's Office received a report of four overdue hikers at Bear Canyon Lake. The Forest Lakes deputy responded to that report and was able to locate those hikers before Search and Rescue volunteers were dispatched.

Following the conclusion of the search at Bear Canyon Lake and while the search for the 15 year old in the Newman Park area was continuing the Sheriff's Office received a report of an overdue

family in the Weimer Springs area. The family returned to their campsite just before the responding deputy arrived.

Coconino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue reminds those engaged in outdoor recreation to be prepared in case of an emergency. That includes carrying a survival kit that contains items to improvise a shelter, a signaling device, fire starting material, extra water, extra food, clothing appropriate for the conditions, flashlight, and some first aid supplies. If a fire is built for warmth or signaling purposes it is critical to monitor it closely and put it out completely when finished with it. It is also important to develop backcountry navigation skills in order to prevent getting lost and to be able to report your location in an emergency.

###